

## **The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyric of Firework by Katy Perry (A Study of Semantic)**

**Hariyanto**

Graduate Program, Lampung University

Email: Haryan\_uzzil5@yahoo.com

**Abstract.** *Figurative language is a part of semantic. This research analyzed the figurative language used in the lyric of firework by Katy Perry. The aims of this research are to find out the figurative languages used in the lyric of firework and to analyze the contextual meaning of figurative language used in that song. It is expected the result of this study will be useful for the reader especially in knowing what figurative language is and what kinds of figurative language are. The design of this research is descriptive qualitative research. The data of song is got from [kapanlagi.com](http://kapanlagi.com) entitle firework. The result found that there are some kinds of figurative language used in Katy perry's song entitle firework, such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, affiliation, symbolic, paradox, and personification. The contextual meaning of each figurative language is also stated clearly. The conclusion of this research is there are some kinds of figurative language use by Katy Perry in her song entitle firework.*

**Key words:** *figurative language; song lyric; types of figurative language*

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Language is one of crucial tools of human beings to communicate one another. Without language, people will never able to communicate one another. People need language to communicate, to interact, and to get information from others. According to Harmer (2007) states that language is used widely for communication between people who do not share the same first (or even second)

language. It means that language can be a primary necessity in human life. It has a big role for every people in making good relationship with others.

Language is a means of communications. Through language, people can express their ideas, thought, and feelings. Hornby (1987) states that language is a human and non-intensive method of communicating ideas, feelings, and desires by means of a system of sounds and sound symbols. The language may represent the explicit and implicit feelings and thoughts. It can also be described as a vehicle of thought, because through language people can share or deliver what put in mind.

In learning and understanding language, people do not only understand the form of language, but also the meaning in it. There are many ways people do in delivering their idea to other people so that people can understand and catch the meaning of idea up. One of the ways that can be used is by song. Many people figure out their ideas and feeling into a song. A song is a composition of voice performed by a singer or by musical instrument. There are many messages delivered in a song. Through song, people can convey his voice to many people, so that people can know his feelings and idea. Currently, many songs can express our feelings, such as song with theme of love, social, political and others. In this time, people can speak to others through song. It means that the song can be used as the way to delivering idea and feeling so that the people can understand what the composer means.

As far as we know, song is a part of literature. Sometimes, people find difficulties to understand what composer means in a song, because what conventionally says is not always the same as what he intends to express. A composer usually put the meaning implicitly. In the attempt to understand the meaning of what composer means in the song, a further knowledge is needed.

The song usually consists of figurative language. The figurative language is kind of language that the speaker says less than what he means. Figurative language is commonly applied in literary works. One of the literary works is song. Hatch (1995) states that, traditionally, figurative language has been described in terms of categories: simile, metaphor, allusion, personification, and so forth.

There are some studies which have done by previous researchers. First by Imro'atul Husna Afriani (2014), she investigated the analysis of figurative language in Michael Jackson lyric Heal the World. Her findings showed that there are figurative languages found in lyric heal the world by Michael Jackson and described the contextual meaning of figurative language in the song. Another research conducted by Khadijah Arifah (2016), She conducted her research entitled Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Song. Her research found the use of figurative languages in Jhon Legend's song.

Due to interest in the study of figurative language, this study focused on figurative languages which are used mainly in the song lyric of firework from Katy Perry. Firework is one of familiar song from Katy Perry. This song became a soundtrack of Titanic Movie. Based on the explanation above, the researcher will take a research entitle The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyric of Firework from Katy Perry. Therefore, the present study attempted to address the following research questions:

1. What types of figurative language are used in firework by Katy Perry?
2. What are the contextual meanings of figurative language used in the song lyric of firework by Katy Perry?

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

In order to further analyze the data and solve the problems, the appropriate methodology is greatly required. This methodology covered the research design, research instrument, data source, data collection, and data analysis.

### ***Research Design***

This study used a descriptive qualitative research. The important of characteristics of the qualitative approach are, Nyoman (2009:47-48):

1. Giving special attention at meaning and message, with suitable object that is as study cultural.
2. Give a priority to the processing than with a result of research so that the meaning always change.
3. Design and the research plan is tentative research because the characteristic of research is opened.
4. The research is scientific, it happens in social cultural and context.
5. There is no distance between subject researchers with the research object, subject researcher as the primary instrument, so there is a direct interaction between other.

This research is designed to identify some figurative languages used by Katy Perry in her song entitle “firework” by understanding the general meaning when they are used in the lyric song.

### ***Research Instrument***

According to qualitative research, human is the best instrument for grasping the meaning people gives the events in their lives. In this research, the researcher is the main instrument. The researcher directly observed the song lyric of firework by Katy Perry. In this research, the writer analyzed the song lyric to find the figurative language used in that song and to find the meaning of that figurative language use.

### ***Data Source***

The researcher focused on analyzing the song lyric of Katy Perry entitled Firework that used figurative language. The researcher took it from the website [kapanlagi.com](http://kapanlagi.com).

### ***Data Collection***

The data of this research is one of songs by Katy Perry. The process of the data collection was by choosing one of Katy Perry's songs. The researcher got the song entitled firework. The researcher took it because that song is familiar and getting interest to find the implicit meaning of that song. After getting the song lyric, the researcher started by reading the lyric and listening to song. Next the researcher attempted to find the word, phrase, and sentence which contain of figurative language and grasping the meaning of each figurative language use in that song. After that, the researcher made a note which is one of the figurative language. Finally the researcher classified the data into kinds of figurative language then analyzed it.

### ***Data Analysis***

After finding the figurative language in the data source, the first step in the analysis is identifying the types of figurative language such as metaphor, simile, hyperbole, idiom, personification, symbol symbolism, synecdoche, and repetition. The next step is analyzing the meaning of each figurative language. And the last is making conclusion.

## **C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### ***Findings***

This part showed the result of the data analysis of the figurative language and the contextual meaning of each figurative language found in the lyric of firework by Katy Perry.

#### ***The analysis of figurative language in song lyric of Firework by Katy Perry***

The researcher analyzed the song lyric of firework by Katy Perry. It is conducted to find out the figurative language use in that song. The figurative language use in that song can be seen in table 1.

Table 1

No	Expression/ Lyric	Figurative Language
1	Do you ever feel like a plastic bag,	Symbolic
2	Drifting through the wind	Hyperbole
3	feel so paper thin	Symbolic
4	like a house of cards	Simile
5	One blow from caving in?	Hyperbole
6	six feet under screams but no one seems to hear a thing	Paradox
7	'Cause there's a spark in you	Symbolic
8	'Cause baby you're a firework	Symbolic
9	Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh"	Affiliation
10	As you shoot across the sky-y-y	Hyperbole
12	Come on, let your colors burst	Symbolic
12	You don't have to feel like a waste of space	Simile
13	You're original, cannot be replaced	Metaphor
14	After a hurricane comes a rainbow	Personification
15	Maybe you're reason why all the doors are closed So you could open one that leads you to the perfect road	Symbolic
16	Like a lightning bolt, your heart will blow	Simile and Hyperbole
17	You just gotta ignite, the light, and let it shine	Symbolic
18	Just own the night like the 4th of July	Simile
19	Boom, boom, boom	Affiliation
20	Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon	Hyperbole and Affiliation
21	It's always been inside of you, you, you	Affiliation
22	And now it's time to let it through-ough-ough	Affiliation

The table above explained the classification of figurative language use in the firework song by Katy Perry. It told in which position the figurative language occur in that song. The figurative languages found are 3 similes, 1 personification, 5 hyperboles, 1 paradox, 7 symbolics, 4 affiliations, and 1 metaphor. They are applied in that song as the messages of the text in song firework in order to create a beautiful meaning and creative literature so the reader will be interest to listen to the song.

*The analysis of contextual meaning of figurative language use in song lyric of Firework by Katy Perry*

It is important to know the meaning of the figurative language use in a song. this part told about the meaning of figurative language found in RQ 1. Knowing the

meaning of figurative language means will help the listener understand the content of the song.

**Lyric 1 Do you ever feel like a plastic bag**

**Do you ever feel like a plastic bag**

drifting through the wind

wanting to start again?

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag is symbolic. A plastic bag there is not a place to put things, but it is a symbol that shows a thing. That plastic bag shows a spirit of people. The lyrics above show that people who does not have spirit in life is like a plastic bag that will be drift through the wind. People who does not have any spirit in reaching a dream will only follow where the wind takes them.

**Lyric 2 drifting through the wind**

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag,

**drifting through the wind**

wanting to start again?

Drifting through the wind is personification. This lyric means someone who does not have any spirit in life, they do not have any goal in their life. They will run where time take them. Those lyric can also means people who does have strong foundation.

**Lyric 3 feel so paper thin**

Do you ever feel

**feel so paper thin**

like a house of cards,

one blow from caving in?

Feel so paper thin is symbolic. The paper thin here has the same meaning to the plastic bag above. This indicates someone spirit. This paper thin show when someone feels down. They have lack of spirit to run their life.

#### **Lyric 4 like a house of cards**

Like a house of cards is simile. This lyric is the next of the previous lyric. It means someone who has lack of spirit will be indicated like a house of cards. It means even they can stand and run their life, but they do not have strong foundation to keep them stand when facing the problems. they will fall easily when there is a problem face them.

#### **Lyric 5 one blow from caving in**

One blow from caving in is hyperbole. This lyric show the power of a blow that can broke house of cards in one blow. This means how the problem will fall people down when they have strong foundation, spirit, in running their life.

#### **Lyric 6 six feet under screams but no one seems to hear a thing**

Do you ever feel already buried deep?

#### **Six feet under screams but no one seems to hear a thing**

Do you know that there's still a chance for you

'Cause there's a spark in you

Six feet under screams but no one seems to hear a thing is paradox. The previous lyric asks the listener do you ever feel already buried deep? that tell the listener, are we ever in the big problems or feel really down. And continue by Six feet under screams but no one seems to hear a thing, It means when we are down, we already ask help to people and nobodies help.



### **Lyric 7 'Cause there's a spark in you**

'Cause there's a spark in you is symbolic. The spark, firework, shows a spirit or a will. It means someone still has a chance to make themselves better when they have to a will to change it. How big problems faced them, there will always a way to solve it as long as we have a spirit or a will to finish it.

### **Lyric 8 'Cause baby you're a firework**

#### **'Cause baby you're a firework**

Come on, show 'em what you're worth

Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh"

As you shoot across the sky-y-y

'Cause baby you're a firework is symbolic. This lyric indicates someone's spirit. The lyric show that every people is a firework means great. Everybody has to show who they are. We need to show what we have, ability, to people. No need to be down of the weakness we have. Our power of spirit will handle our weaknesses. let us show it and let it shine.

### **Lyric 9 Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh" and As you shoot across the sky-y-y**

Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh" and As you shoot across the sky-y- are hyperbole affiliation. It is called affiliation because there are repetition words. Those words means let our spirit go and control our self. If it is already controlled well, it will shoot across the sky that means it will handle or fight to all problems we have.

### **Lyric 10 Come on, let your colors burst**

Baby, you're a firework

#### **Come on, let your colors burst**

Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh"

You're gonna leave 'em falling down-own-own

Come on, let your colors burst is symbol. The color here indicates something. The color is not a color like red, blue or so on, but the color here means someone's character or behavior. We do not to be others, just be who we are. We do not to hide our character to other people. Even we need to show it to them. our good character will tackle everything down.

**Lyric 11 You don't have to feel like a waste of space**

**Lyric 12 You're original, cannot be replaced**

**You don't have to feel like a waste of space**

**You're original, cannot be replaced**

If you only knew what the future holds

After a hurricane comes a rainbow

You don't have to feel like a waste of space is simile. This lyric means we do not to be other people. You're original, cannot be replaced is metaphor. This lyric indicates that everybody is special. Both lyric show us that we do not to be other people because we are different, special, and better than others.

**Lyric 13 After a hurricane comes a rainbow**

After a hurricane comes a rainbow is personification. The lyric tells us that we do not need to be worry with the problems came to us. We need to believe that the rainbow will come after hurricane. Meaning that there will always something good waiting us after facing problems. So we do not need to give up when the hurricanes come to block our step in reaching our dream, just go ahead. Our great dream is waiting us.

**Lyric 14 Maybe you're reason why all the doors are closed**

**So you could open one that leads you to the perfect road**

The lyrics above are symbolic. The words "doors" are symbol that indicate something. Doors, here, mean a way. The first lyric indicates that we are a reason why all the doors are closed. It means that who stop being a burdens or problems that stop our steps is our self. We are a reason cause the problems born. We often underestimate our self. We judge that we cannot do anything, because we are weak. So you could open one that leads you to the perfect road means we have to create our way in reaching a dream.

**Lyric 15 Like a lightning bolt, your heart will blow**

There are two types of figurative language in the lyric above. Those lyric means the road that has been chosen will be like a bolt. It will be something amazing that will show to people how good you are. Your heart will blow means you are going be on fire when we have already get our road.

**Lyric 16 You just gotta ignite, the light, and let it shine**

The lyrics above indicate the symbolic. The light means a hope or a spirit. The lyric tells us to find our spirit and let it burn.

**Lyric 17 Just own the night like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July**

The lyric above indicates a symbolic. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is independent day of America. It shows the freedom of ourselves. We will find the freedom after tackling down the problems we have like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Lyric 18 Boom, boom, boom**

**Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon**

**It's always been inside of you, you, you**

**And now it's time to let it through-ough-ough**

The lyrics above are hyperbole and affiliation. Boom, boom, boom are sound of firework that means sound of our spirit. The spirit must shine every time. We need to know who we are, so we can build our spirit. Afterwards, we need to show to other people

### ***Discussion***

The discussion explains about the data the researcher found and analyzed. After analyzing the data, the researcher found the figurative language use in Katy Perry's song entitled firework. Besides finding types of figurative language used in that song, the researcher also explains the meaning of each figurative language use in firework song by Katy Perry. There are some kinds of figurative language used in Katy Perry's song entitled firework, such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, affiliation, symbolic, paradox, and personification. The researcher found eighteen lyrics content of figurative languages. The most dominant figurative language that found in this research is symbolic.

The figurative language is kind of language that the speaker says less than what he means. Katy Perry uses some kinds of figurative language in her song entitled firework. The figurative language is used by Katy Perry to make the song more beautiful and nice to be listened. The implicit meanings are stated in the figurative language. The use of figurative language is also used to represent feelings and express the message.

The firework song tells the listener to know who they are and find the spirit and soul in their life. This song invites people to always spirit in running their life and give up in facing troubles faced. The use word "firework" by Katy Perry because this word shows the boom of spirit. This song expects people to always keep the spirit shine. Even it should be brighter than the moon. Nobody will help us when we have problem except ourselves. So we need to find best way in solving every single problem.

Some previous researches are also stated to this research to support the findings. First by Imro'atul Husna Afriani, she investigated the analysis of figurative language in Michael Jackson lyric Heal the World. Her findings showed that there are figurative languages found in lyric heal the world by Michael Jackson and described the contextual meaning of figurative language in the song. Another research conducted by Khadijah Arifah, She conducted her research entitled Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Song. Her research found the use of figurative languages in Jhon Legend's song.

After seeing the result, the researcher concluded that there are some types of figurative language use in the firework song by Katy Perry. The figurative languages are used to express message to the listener. The contextual meaning is also explained by researcher of the figurative language used in firework song by Katy Perry..

#### **D. CONCLUSION**

From the discussion, it can be concluded that the lyric of firework by Katy Perry contains figurative languages. Through figurative language, the learner can learn about linguistic. There are eighteen lyrics contains of figurative language. There are some kinds of figurative language used in Katy perry's song entitle firework, such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, affiliation, symbolic, paradox, and personification. The meaning of each figurative language is also stated in the result of this research

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## Appendix

### Song Lyric of Firework

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag,  
drifting through the wind  
wanting to start again?

Do you ever feel  
feel so paper thin  
like a house of cards,  
one blow from caving in?

Do you ever feel already buried deep?  
6 feet under screams but no one seems to  
hear a thing  
Do you know that there's still a chance  
for you  
'Cause there's a spark in you

You just gotta ignite, the light, and let it  
shine  
Just own the night like the 4th of July

'Cause baby you're a firework  
Come on, show 'em what you're worth  
Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh"  
As you shoot across the sky-y-y

Baby, you're a firework  
Come on, let your colors burst  
Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh"  
You're gonna leave 'em falling down-  
own-own

You don't have to feel like a waste of  
space  
You're original, cannot be replaced  
If you only knew what the future holds  
After a hurricane comes a rainbow  
Maybe you're reason why all the doors  
are closed

So you could open one that leads you to  
the perfect road  
Like a lightning bolt, your heart will  
blow

And when it's time, you'll know

You just gotta ignite, the light, and let it  
shine  
Just own the night like the 4th of July

'Cause baby you're a firework  
Come on, show 'em what you're worth  
Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh"  
As you shoot across the sky-y-y

Baby, you're a firework  
Come on, let your colors burst  
Make 'em go "Oh, Oh, Oh"  
You're gonna leave 'em falling down-  
own-own

Boom, boom, boom  
Even brighter than the moon, moon,  
moon  
It's always been inside of you, you, you  
And now it's time to let it through-ough-  
ough

'Cause baby you're a firework  
Come on, show 'em what you're worth  
Make 'em go "Oh, Oh, Oh"  
As you shoot across the sky-y-y

Baby, you're a firework  
Come on, let your colors burst  
Make 'em go "Oh, Oh, Oh"  
You're gonna leave 'em falling down-  
down-down

Boom, Boom, Boom  
Even brighter than the moon, moon,  
moon  
Boom, boom, boom  
Even brighter than the moon, moon,  
moon

Source : <http://lirik.kapanlagi.com/artis/katy-perry/firework/>